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BROWN DAILY HERALD, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 1967

Dr. Heffner: Why Students' Petitions Were 'Inappropriate'

In an article appearing in the *Providence Evening Bulletin* Saturday, University President Ray Heffner was quoted as having termed "inappropriate" the petitions presented to him asking the University not to suspend or dismiss students who demonstrated against a CIA recruiter last Tuesday.

However, Dr. Heffner yesterday commented: "I don't think it's 'appropriate' for students to petition anybody at any point."

He merely questioned the petitions' relevance to "the quasi-judicial process which we have established." Since the University Council on Student Affairs serves as "a jury, they have an obligation to listen to the prosecution and the defense," whereas he is only the "ultimate court of appeal," the President said.

Dr. Heffner also called the petitions "inappropriate" because they were drawn up and presented to him before any definite action had been taken concerning possible punishment of the demonstrators. Three petitions were given to him; one calling for lenient punishment; one calling for severe punishment; and concerning the policy of open interviews from outside organizations, upon which he declined to comment.

Although he told the *Bulletin* that he would "'probably' refer the petitions to a student-faculty-administration group that will hear the cases," President Heffner stated yesterday, "I think I'll give the petitions to Professor Echeverria and let him decide whether he gives them to the Council or not."

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